

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03975 01 OF 02 220543Z

10

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-08 INR-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCSE-00 USIA-15

SWF-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PC-10 DRC-01

/095 W

----- 105233

O 220438Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8080

INFO JCS IMMEDIATE

DIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSARSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSAFSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSNAVSO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TEGUCIGALPA 3975

STATE ALSO PASS AID-PHA-FDRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, HO

SUBJECT: HURRICANE FIFI - SITREP 7

REF: SITREP 6

1. AMBASSADOR, MILGP COMMANDER AND COL HERNANDEZ
CHIEF OF HONDURAN GENERAL STAFF, COMPLETED INSPECTION OF
NORTHERN DISASTER AREAS ON AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 21.
MOST VALUABLE ASPECT OF OVERFLIGHT WAS POSSIBILITY TO
PERSONALLY WITNESS NATURE OF DAMAGE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 03975 01 OF 02 220543Z

2. FLIGHT OVER SULA VALLEY INDICATED THAT WATER RECEDING AFTER CAUSING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE. FLOODING WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF DAMAGE IN AREA. PUERTO CORTES SUBURBS SUFFERED SERIOUS DAMAGE FROM WATER TORRENTS. NO BODIES OBSERVED BUT PROBABLY SWEEPED AWAY IN FLASH FLOODS OR BURIED UNDER MED. PORT STILL FUNCTIONING BUT NOT MUCH ACTIVITY. BRIDGE OUTSIDE OF CHOLOMA CUT AND GOH PUTTING PRIORITY ON REPAIR OF STRUCTURE.

3. NO IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IN SAN PEDRO SULA. THERE IS REASONABLE SUPPLY OF MEDICINE. MAJOR PROBLEM IS SUPPLY OF POTABLE WATER. ALSO REQUESTED 300 SERIES OF RABIES VACINE. DAST TEAM SET UP GENERATOR AT LA MESA AIRPORT OUTSIDE SAN PEDRO SULA TO ACTIVATE AIRPORT TOWER, FUEL SUPPLY AND NAVIGATIONAL AIDS.

4. INVESTIGATION OF BAY ISLANDS INDICATE THAT NUMBER OF TREES BLOWN DOWN, SOME SMALL BOATS SUNK BUT LITTLE VISIBLE DAMAGE. LITTLE ACTIVITY NOTED ON ISLANDS. UNCONFIRMED REPORT INDICATES THAT NO CASUALTIES SUFFERED ON ISLANDS.

5. INSPECTION OF AGUAN VALLEY INDICATES THAT THERE IS EXTENSIVE FLOODING OF ENTIRE VALLEY THAT BECOMES MORE SERIOUS AS MOUTH OF VALLEY IS APPROACHED. AREA OF ISLETA SUFFERS FROM SEVERE FLOODING. MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN NOTED ON ROOFTOPS AND HIGH GROUND FOR LAST THREE DAYS. UNCONFIRMED SOURCE STATED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO U.S. CASUALTIES IN AREA BUT THAT THERE ARE 2-3,000 REFUGEES IN GENERAL AREA.

6. AMBASSADOR HAD CONVERSATION WITH STANDARD FRUIT OFFICIALS IN LA CEIBA. THEY ESTIMATE VERY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF DAMAGE TO BANANA PLANTATIONS. COMPANY IS CONCENTRATING ON HELPING EMPLOYEES RATHER THAN SAVING BANANAS. THEY HAVE RELEASED 5,500 POUNDS OF FOODSTUFFS BUT REQUIRE AIRLIFT CAPACITY TO MOVE IT TO WORST DAMAGE AREAS. COMPANY OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT BOATS WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN FERRYING SUPPLIES AND PEOPLE. THEY ALSO ESTIMATE THAT FLOODING WILL CONTINUE FOR ONE WEEK.

7. AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT DESTRUCTION IN LA CEIBA
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEGUCI 03975 01 OF 02 220543Z

AS SEEN FROM GROUND MORE EXTENSIVE THAN APPEARS FROM AIR. UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF 53 DROWNINGS IN CITY. THE ZONE COMMANDER, COL. MEJIA, ESTIMATE, THAT THERE ARE 61 DEATHS IN GENERAL AREA, (TELA TO TRUJILLO).

8. EMBASSY EYEWITNESS IN TRUJILLO STATED THAT WIND AND RAIN DAMAGE FAIRLY EXTENSIVE IN TRUJILLO. ELECTRIC POWER WILL BE OUT FOR APPROXIMATELY 10 DAYS AND COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE OUT

FOR SIMILAR PERIOD. SAME EYEWITNESS STATED THAT BOTH PIERS IN PUERTO CASTILLA DESTROYED AND NO BOATS CAN DOCK. THERE IS ONLY LIMITED POWER IN TOWN. BRIDGE OUTSIDE TOWN DESTROYED AND THERE IS NO LAND CONNECTION WITH AGUAN VALLEY AND LA CEIBA. TRUJILLO IS SIMILARLY CUT OFF. POTABLE WATER IS A PROBLEM IN BOTH TOWNS AND IT IS PROBABLE THAT FOOD SUPPLIES WILL RUN LOW IN NEAR FUTURE.

9. ONE HUEY HELICOPTER DIVERTED FROM THE NORTH COAST TO CONDUCT SEARCH AND EVACUATION OPERATIONS IN CHOLUTECA (SOUTHERN PORTION OF COUNTRY) EVACUATED 50 PERSONS FROM FLOOD STREWN AREA TO HIGHER GROUND. AIRCRAFT COVERED 10 MILE RADIUS AROUND CHOLUTECA. DETERMINATION MADE THAT AREA NOT IN SERIOUS CONDITION, FEW PEOPLE ARE LEFT STRANDED, AND MORE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED AREA OF NORTH COAST REQUIRES IMMEDIATE USE OF THIS HELICOPTER.

10. REPORT RECEIVED FROM DAST OPERATING ON THE NORTH COAST IN SAN PEDRO SULA - PUERTO CORTES - OMOA INDICATE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A) SAN PEDRO SULA IN NEED OF 36 INCH PIPE FOR WATER SYSTEM; REQUEST PASSED TO COPEN.

B) HARDEST HIT AREA COVERED BY THIS TEAM IS OMOA AND CHOLOMA. OMOA REPORTS 15 DEAD AND 75 PERCENT OF HOUSES DESTROYED. CIVILIAN DOCTORS INDICATED SITUATION UNDER CONTROL, BUT MORE MEDICINES (NOT SPECIFIED) WOULD BE NEEDED. NO BOATS REQUIRED.

C) HELICOPTERS INITIATED SEARCH AND EVACUATION AT PROGRESO AND LA LIMA. LA LIMA REQUESTS 5,000 BLANKETS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 TEGUCI 03975 01 OF 02 220543Z

D) CHOLOMA DEAD LISTED AT 114; RESIDENTS ATTEMPTING TO SINK WELL FOR WATER SUPPLY. ADDITIONAL MEDICINES NEEDED E.G. ANTIBIOTICS, VACCINES, DIARRHEA PILLS, MERTHIOLATE AND GAMMA GLOBULIN. TEAM RECOMMENDS PROCUREMENT OF MORE MEDICAL SUPPLIES FROM SOUTHCOM. U.S. EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRESENTLY CHECKING RECENTLY ARRIVED RESOURCES PRIOR TO FURTHER REQUEST, WILL ADVISE.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03975 02 OF 02 220550Z

10

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-08 INR-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCSE-00 USIA-15

SWF-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PC-10 DRC-01

/095 W

----- 105240

O 220438Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8081

INFO JCS IMMEDIATE

DIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSARSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSAFSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSNAVSO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 TEGUCIGALPA 3975

STATE ALSO PASS AID-PHA-FDRC

E) TWO WATER PURIFICATION UNITS OPERATIONAL AT LA MESA
AIRPORT, SAN PEDRO SULA.

F) TEAM REPORTS 80 PERCENT (177) OF HOUSES DESTROYED ON
ISLAND OF GUANAJA WITH 129 FAMILIES HOMELESS. NO FATALITIES
REPORTED. ISLAND REQUESTS 200 FEET OF 4 INCH PLASTIC
TUBING TO REPAIR WATER SYSTEM. REQUEST PASSED TO COPEN.

G) WATER AND FOOD SUPPLY OF CRITICAL CONCERN FOR GUANAJA,
OMOA AND CHOLOMA.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 03975 02 OF 02 220550Z

H) NO KNOWN U.S. CASUALITIES REPORTED AT THIS TIME.

11. FORTY-ONE MILITARY PERSONNEL REPRESENTING THE DAST, DAST SUPPORT, U.S. AIRFORCE AND U.S. ARMY AVIATION PRESENTLY OPERATING WITHIN HONDURAS. ALL PERSONNEL REACTING WITH EXPERTISE AND WELL RECEIVED BY GOH AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

12. HELICOPTER WITH TAIL NUMBER 713 U.S. ARMY, REPORTED DEADLINED FOR REPAIR PART WHICH HAS BEEN REQUESTED FROM SOUTHCOM. ONCE PART IS RECEIVED, REPAIR TIME IS 15 MINUTES.

13. LACK OF COMMUNICATIONS PREVENTS REPORTING OF OTHER DAST TEAM PRESENTLY LOCATED IN LA CEIBA.

14. PC/H HAS CONFIRMED POSITIVELY THRU DIRECT OR INDIRECT MEANS SAFETY OF 87 OF 136 PCVS AND TRAINEES IN HONDURAS. OF REMAINING 48, 23 ARE LOCATED IN HURRICANE FIFI IMPACT AREA. REMAINING 25 IN RELATIVELY SAFE AREAS, BUT NO CONTACT ESTABLISHED DUE TO POOR COMMUNICATIONS. CONTACT EFFORTS CONTINUE.

15. PCV NURSES AND 4 CIVIL ENGINEERS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS SENT TO SAN PEDRO SULA 2:00 PM 9/21 ETA 6:00 PM. 4 PCVS WORKING WITH CARITAS IN TEGUCIGALPA. 2 CIVIL ENGINEERS IN PUERTO CORTES WORKING TO REPAIR BRIDGES. ONE PC STAFF AND GROUP PCVS REPORTED THEIR TRAVEL TO BAY ISLANDS WITH RELIEF SUPPLIES. 12 PCV NURSES AND CONTINGENT OF OTHER PCV TECHNICIANS ON STANDBY IN OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES FOR USE ON REQUEST.

16. HONDURAN PVT. ORGANIZATIONS HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ORGANIZING AND SUPPORTING LOCAL RELIEF EFFORTS. RED CROSS, LIONS, ROTARY, TEACHER'S FEDERATIONS, JAYCEES AND UNIVERSITY HAVE COLLECTED AND DISTRIBUTED FOOD, MEDICINE AND CLOTHING TO HOMELESS IN URBAN AREAS OF TEGUCIGALPA AND SAN PEDRO SULA AREA. CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES HAS REQUESTED AND RECEIVED APPROVAL TO INITIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF REFUGEE REHABILITATION CENTERS IN THE SULA AND AGUAN VALLEYS. AT PRESENT THEY HAVE 250,000 LBS. OF P.L. 480 FOODS READY FOR DISTRIBUTION IN SAN PEDRO SULA AREA. \$5,000 HAS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEGUCI 03975 02 OF 02 220550Z

BEEN RECEIVED FROM C.R.S. NEW YORK AND \$3,000 FROM INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION IN ADDITION TO \$5,000 APPROVED BY U.S. MISSION FOR LOCAL PURCHASES.

17. AID HAS DISPATCHED ROAD ENGINEER TO NORTH COAST AREA TO ASSIST IN RE-OPENING VITAL LAND LINK BETWEEN SAN PEDRO SULA, TELA AND LA CEIBA.

18. COL. ANDINO, G-5 HAS STATED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN 1200

DEATHS. THE MISSION EXERTING ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO MAKE AN ESTIMATE OF CASUALTIES. HOWEVER, ISOLATION OF DISASTER AREAS AND LACK OF COMMUNICATION MADE SUCH A RATIONAL ESTIMATE IMPOSSIBLE AT PRESENT.

19. SUBSEQUENT TELEGRAM WILL OUTLINE MISSION DISASTER RELIEF REQUESTS, BASED ON CT REVIEW OF REQUESTS LISTED ABOVE AND DAST RECOMMENDATIONS.
SANCHEZ

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEGUCI03975
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740266-0692
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740924/aaaaatyr.tel
Line Count: 286
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SITREP 6
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HURRICANE FIFI - SITREP 7
TAGS: OGEN, HO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005